

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 EA-07 PRS-01 /046 W

----- 129586

R 031901Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7136

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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DEPARTMENT PASS USDA FOR FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD; BR

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR US-BRAZILIAN TECHNICAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
SOYBEANS

REF: STATE 184883

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL BRAZILIAN REACTION TO US PROPOSAL FOR SOYBEAN
CONSULTATIVE GROUP IS POSITIVE. EMBASSY FOLLOWING UP WITH AGRICUL-
TURE MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 30, IN COURSE OF MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, AMBASSADOR
MENTIONED TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA US PROPOSAL FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON SOYBEANS.
AMBASSADOR NOTED US COMMITMENT TO FREE MARKET AND OUTLINED NATURE
OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM WE HAVE IN MIND. SILVEIRA THOUGHT
THE PROPOSAL WAS A POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. ALTHOUGH
UNDERSTANDING THE LIMITED NATURE OF THE US PROPOSAL, HE BELIEVED
THE NEW MECHANISM WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN US AND BRAZILIAN SOYBEAN INTERESTS AND PERHAPS THE REDUC-
TION IN THE NUMBER OF "SURPRISE ACTIONS" BY EITHER GOVERNMENT
ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER. HE COMMENTED
THAT THIS LATTER ASPECT WAS FOR HIM ONE OF THE MAJOR PURPOSES

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AND FRUITS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

3. EARLIER ON JULY 30, COUNSELOR ECON/COMM HAD CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CABRAL DE MELLO (CHIEF, FORMIN ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT) TO MAKE PRESENTATION REFTEL. (TEXT OF TALKING PAPER SEPTM.) COUNSELOR NOTED US COMMITMENT TO FREE MARKET AND STRESSED THAT IN NO SENSE SHOULD US PROPOSAL BE CONSTRUED AS OFFER TO INTERFERE WITH MARKET FORCES. THRUST OF US PROPOSAL WAS TO PROMOTE FREE, EXPANDING MARKETS, NOT TO IMPEDE THEM, THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION.

4. CABRAL DE MELLO, NOTING THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF CLOSER US-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION IN THIS COMMODITY, TERMED THE PROPOSAL VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND PROMISED TO PROCESS IT PROMPTLY WITHIN THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. HE THEN ASKED THREE QUESTIONS: (A) EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF BRAZILIAN MIN OF AGRICULTURE'S REACTION: WE SAID THAT FROM EARLIER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THAT MINISTRY, WE UNDERSTOOD MINISTER PAULINELLI'S ADVISERS TO BE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A GROUP. (B) CHAIRMANSHIP AND COMPOSITION: WE SAID THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WOULD BE THE LEAD AGENCY ON THE US SIDE. OUR INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT SPECIFY THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF OTHER US AGENCIES. WE ASSUMED USDA WOULD CHAIR THE US DELEGATION. (C) PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION: WE SAID THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT. US DELEGATIONS TO MEETINGS OF COMMODITY STUDY GROUPS NORMALLY INCLUDE ADVISERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WE ASSUMED USDA WISHED TO FOLLOW A SIMILAR PATTERN IN THE PRESENT CASE.

5. COUNSELOR THEN RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PUBLICITY ABOUT THIS US INITIATIVE, NOTING THE DANGER OF MISLEADING NEWS REPORTS. EMBASSY WOULD NOT DISCUSS US PROPOSAL WITH THE PRESS, BUT IF REPORTS SHOULD BEGIN TO CIRCULATE AND EMBASSY SHOULD RECEIVE INQUIRIES WE WOULD CLARIFY THE NATURE OF THE US OFFER, GENERALLY FOLLOWING LINES OF US TALKING PAPER. CABRAL DE MELLO SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION TO TALK TO THE PRESS ABOUT PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME BUT, HE ADDED, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEAK IN SOME OTHER MINISTRY. IN CONCLUSION, CABRAL DE MELLO PROMISED TO BE BACK WITH AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE.

6. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PARALLEL PRESENTATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WHICH HAS BEEN TIED UP WITH VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE DELEGATION. ACTING AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE NOW HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE DR. RUBENS VALENTINI WEDNESDAY AM.

7. ON AUGUST 2, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD TALKED ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE PAULINELLI, WHO HAD REACTED FAVORABLY.

8. FAS CONCURS THIS MESSAGE.
CRIMMINS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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